



Tickets have been ordered! Departure for the main party is Air Canada departing Vancouver 18 April 2020 at 1030hrs. Arriving Toronto at 1802hrs, departing Toronto 1930 hrs, arriving Paris 0840hrs 19 Apr.

Critical information to be sent to president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

- What is your preferred wine!
- Current telephone number!
- Would you prefer to be a driver, navigator or simply a passenger?
- Rate your Français from 1 (poor) to 10 (fluent).

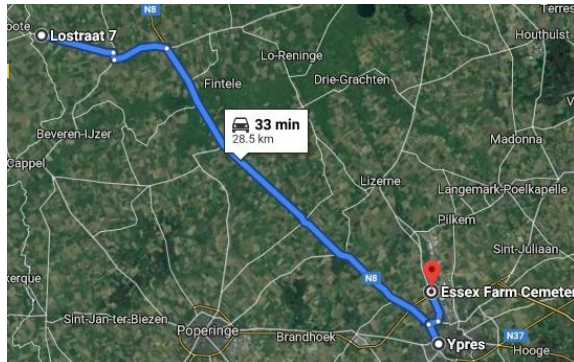
Our group currently consists of fourteen in the main party, two pairs on advance recce and several wanderers that plan to meet up with us.

Two key locations that may be of interest:



Essex Farm Advanced Dressing Station

This site is associated with Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae who served with the Canadian field Artillery during the Boer War. From 1901 until 1914, he practised as a doctor in Canada and in England and enlisted within the first few weeks of war being declared. He was sent overseas in September 1914 with the Canadian Field Artillery and later moved into the medical field. It was while stationed at Essex Farm, in May 1915 that he wrote "In Flanders Fields", after one of his friends, Alexis Helmer, was killed and buried. Sadly, Helmer's grave was lost later in the War, and he is commemorated on Panel 10 of the Menin Gate in Ypres. John McCrae fell ill with pneumonia in January 1918, and died on the 28th. He is buried at Wimereux Cemetery near Boulogne.



Belgium Graves

The route shown starts at our accommodation near Leisele and provides a 1 hour drive through three of the graveyards nearby. Monuments in the area include the Passchendaele Canadian Monument and the St Julien Canadian War Memorial.





Lieutenant James Maxwell McIlquham MC was a Corporal in 42nd Regiment Lanark and Renfrew. Though a member of the Queens Officer Training Cadre, he was taken on strength with the Canadian Expeditionary Force as a Private with the Canadian Stationary Hospital on 29 March 1915. He arrived in England on 15 May 1915 and proceeded to the Dardanelles on 1 August 1915. He was appointed Clerk 31 January 1916 and embarked for England 11 April 1916 and then onto France on 21 April 1916. He transferred to the Reserve Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery 30 August 1916 where he was appointed to a Temporary Commission as Lieutenant on 25 January 1917. Posted to 3rd Divisional Artillery Column 9 May 1917 he was finally taken on strength 31 Battery, 9th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery 6 August 1917. He was attached to 1st Army School of

Mortars 14 August 1917 and rejoined the unit 26 August 1917. He was wounded in action November 1917 (*Our battery positions were also very heavily shelled during the day and quite a large number of casualties inflicted*) and died of wounds 6 November 1917. Lieutenant McIlquham is buried at the Nine Elms British Cemetery in Belgium. He was posthumously awarded the Military Cross 18 January 1918.



Gunner Leonard Duncan Haslett was the son of James and Mary Haslett, of Anyox, British Columbia. He was originally a member of the Earl Greys Own Rifles before being taken on strength with the 68th Depot Battery in Vancouver on 5 Oct 1916. He embarked Canada 15 December 1916, for an 11 day journey across the Atlantic. He was taken on strength with 2nd Canadian Divisional Artillery Column on 4 April 1917 and then posted to 6th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery on 13 May 1917. He was deceased 1 Nov 1917 and is buried at Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery Belgium.



Lieutenant Claude Melnot Wilson DFC was taken on strength 68th Depot Battery in Vancouver on 15th September 1916. He transferred to the Royal Flying Corps on 4 August 1917 and was assigned to the 29th Squadron Royal Flying Corps on 4 May 1918. He is credited with eight aerial victories. Lieutenant Wilson was killed in action near Roulers on 14 October 1918, and interred in the New British Cemetery in Dadizele, Belgium. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC). The citation reads:

Bold in attack, this officer never hesitates to join in an engagement with the enemy, regardless of their numerical superiority. On 18 August, with four other machines, he attacked a large hostile formation. Five enemy machines were destroyed, Lt. Wilson accounting for one. In all he has four machines and one balloon to his credit.



St Julien Canadian War Memorial



Passchendaele Canadian Monument

Have you bought your tickets for our **BirthDay Party** on the 1st of February? Check it out here. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/centennial-page.html>

Leon Jensen
President
Vancouver Artillery Association